

**FIRE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COORDINATING BOARD
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION**

January 3, 2013

Present: James Ball
John Chartier
David Gorman
James Gumbley
Brian Jackvony
Scott Kettelle
Timothy McLaughlin
Jay Petrillo
Mark St. Pierre
Howard Tighe
Mark Vincent
John Woodard

Absent: Joseph Bertholic

Open Session of the Fire Education and Training Coordinating Board was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Chairperson Kettelle.

There is a full quorum for legal voting on matters.

MARSHAL'S REPORT:

Item #1 Selection of the next Director of the Fire Academy – State law indicates that the State Fire Marshal is the one to select the individual. However, Department of Public Safety does not want the Marshal involved in the screening process and has agreed to allow Chief Deputy Gumbley of the State Fire Marshal's Office to be part of the screening process. After the screening committee supplies a list of qualified candidates, then a second round of interviews will proceed. The interview panel will be the State Fire Marshal, a member of the Department of Public Safety and legal counsel.

(Discussion)

Item #2 Phase 2 of the Fire Academy – Around Thanksgiving time, Namvar Moghadam, the Associate Director of Capital Projects, forwarded a Preliminary Scope asking for review and comments from the State Fire Marshal's Office and Major Hill of the Department of Public Safety in order to get this out for a secondary meeting and out to bid. The State Fire Marshal returned his copy and comments within a couple of days and as of this meeting, after several emails to Moghadam, Major Hill, liaison to the Fire Marshal's Office, has not yet returned his copy. Therefore, no secondary meeting has taken place and Capital Projects will not move forward unless DPS signs off on it. We are now stuck in a holding pattern. It is vital that we get this out to bid. I would like to get this moving forward so that when the weather breaks we can get the shovels in the ground. With the budget the way it is, we can't afford to lose another season.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Chief Deputy James Gumbley and Chief Deputy Richard James have been assigned to be Co-Directors until a new Director has been selected. Gumbley will deal with the administration side and James will deal with the new facility's side.

EMA will be contacted today to learn the status of the HMEP grant.

2012 Annual Report numbers for the Rhode Island Fire Academy – Successfully ran 91 Programs with 1,773 members attending. Every year the number of programs has increased.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Director Castro provided a list of outstanding issues at the Fire Academy. This check list will be used by the next Director to keep things moving forward. The Tech Rescue Program - equipment is out to bid and a critical request form has been sent out to the DPS for approval before it went over to the DOA. Scott Jenson, one of the coordinators for the program, has been assisting with that.

HMEP Grant – C.D. Gumbley is checking on the status.

Friction Forcible Entry Door specifications – still waiting on that.

Use of Training Foam at the Academy – still waiting for an answer from DEM on that. Jim Ball will look into that for classes this spring.

NFA Weekend classes – Chief Mark St. Pierre and Chief Rick Petrin are the co-coordinators this year.

RI State Fire Training Grant approved for 2012-2013 - \$23,971.00 must be spent before September 14, 2013.

Burn Trailer out of service - Needs extensive and expensive repairs (\$40,000). Future need and use to be determined at a later meeting.

Student Manuals need to be ordered through Prison Industries for Hazardous Materials Classes. C.D. Gumbley to handle.

Director Castro's Letter of Resignation and thanks is read to the Board again.

FF-1 & FF-2 Challenge Process to be put on hold until April or May.

(Discussion)

Committee for FF-1 & FF-2 Challenge Process: Brian Jackvony and Howard Tighe.

FF-1 & FF-2 Open Enrollment Survey will be put out after minor adjustments are made.

(Discussion)

Legislative changes regarding the Instructor Liability Issue being supported by Speaker Fox's office and the President of the Senate's Office and they will both support us and provide a sponsor and get it introduced. Howard Tighe is working diligently on this. The State Association of Firefighters and their lobbyist will lend their support on this as well.

Chairman Kettelle, ProBoard liaison, will attend the annual ProBoard conference, Wednesday through Sunday, January 16th through January the 20th, out in California.

Rhode Island Instructors' Association – Christopher Albro will be the interim President with several members interested in being treasurer and secretary. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 14th, where new officers will be elected and get this association active again. Components in our Strategic Plan rely on continuing education for our instructors, which will be enhanced from this organization. John Woodard is the RI Fire Instructors' Association representative and will be providing reports to the FETCB on their progress.

The Restricted Receipt Account – Requesting C.D. Gumbley, representative of the State Fire Marshal's Office, again, to look into this account for the purpose of who has access to it and how to access it for the needs of the Fire Academy.

Rhode Island Fire Academy – Phase 2 – Will be contacting the DPS to see where they are and what needs to be done to get Phase 2 underway.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Kettelle received an email from DPS stating that they wanted us to follow State Law in the process of hiring a Director for the Rhode Island Fire Academy. "Thank you for contacting me about this. Please proceed with the interview process in accordance with Rhode Island State law. Please interview those most qualified within the applicant pool and recommend three finalists that possess the necessary skills and experience to fill the Director's position. Please forward the names to me, (Captain Pinch) and Major Hill. Those three individuals will undergo a second interview with someone from the Department of Public Safety, Marshal Chartier and his designee; from those three, a recommendation will be made to the Colonel."

(Discussion)

Committee to recommend a new Rhode Island Fire Academy Director: James Ball, DEM Representative; Joseph Bertholic, RI State Firemen's League; James Gumbley, State Fire Marshal's Office; Brian Jackvony, Combo Full-time/volunteer Chiefs; Howard Tighe, RI Association of Firefighters; and Mark Vincent, Fire Safety Association.

(Discussion)

The applicant packets are passed out to the board members.

(Discussion)

John Woodard's term on the FTECB is going to expires on the 31st of January. He must go to the Fire Instructors' Association meeting and have them produce a letter and request that you be

re-appointed. The letter should be forwarded to the Governor's Office. A copy of the letter should go to the FETCB's Chairperson, as well as to the Marshal.

Class notification process – Open enrollment versus in house or grant run classes. The Fire Academy is working on a process that will fill each class to capacity.

(Discussion)

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.